

Excessive

Record of Employment
Time Consuming
Compliance
Forms
Rules
Privacy
Obstacle
WCB
Signage
By-Laws

**Red Tape
Report Card**

Business Registration
Canada Revenue Agency
2013
PST
Stress
Requirements
Frustration
EI
Paper Burden
Customs
GST
Payroll
Property Tax

Province	Political Leadership	Measurement	Long-term Commitment	Momentum & Context	2012 Grade	2013 Grade
Federal Government	Yes. The Prime Minister announced a Red Tape Reduction Commission in 2011. Recently a Red Tape Action Plan was announced in response to the Commission’s recommendations. The plan is being championed by Treasury Board President Tony Clement.	Not yet. Commitment to update the inventory of regulatory requirements for business by 2014 as part of the Red Tape Action Plan. Once updated, it will be publicly reported every year. An “Annual Scorecard Report” will be published and provided to the Auditor General.	A “one-for-one” rule has been put into practice and will be legislated soon. A “Small Business Lens” is being used to review regulatory impacts on small business. Government departments are also to set and publish measurable standards, set goals for service improvement, and report on performance.	The red tape reform package was launched in October 2012 with most of the changes to take effect in 2013 and 2014. This plan has the potential to have a groundbreaking impact on how regulations and service are managed within the federal government. If the government sticks to its plan, its grade will improve next year.	B-	B+
British Columbia	Past leadership has been very strong.	Yes. The government measures and reports regulatory requirements. Public reports are less frequent than in the past.	Yes. The number of regulatory requirements in BC has been reduced by 42% since 2001. Commitment to zero net growth through 2015. Legislation requiring annual reporting was passed in 2012.	BC has been recognized as a leader in regulatory reform for many years. Businesses are concerned about the growth in regulation from authorities granted regulating power from government, which are not yet included in the regulatory counts.	A	A
Newfoundland and Labrador	Yes. Led by Minister of Service NL	Yes but with inconsistent reporting. Going forward, the new Accountability Framework requires regular (quarterly) reporting by departments.	Some. The provincial government has implemented a “zero net growth” policy, however it has not been legislated. The launch of the Accountability Framework renews government’s commitment to measurement and zero net growth.	In addition to focusing on quantitative measurement, government is also focusing on qualitative improvements. For instance, they have implemented plain-language training and are regularly updating current regulations to reduce the regulatory burden. Enshrining commitments in legislation would improve government’s grade.	B	B
Quebec	Led by Regulatory and Administrative Streamlining Secretariat within the Ministry of the Conseil exécutif (which is directly under the Premier). A permanent Red Tape Reduction Committee was created in 2012.	Yes. Measures publicly reported in 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012.	Yes. A commitment was made to reduce regulatory burden cost by 20% by 2015. The Red Tape Reduction Committee published a report in 2012 with 63 recommendations that government has adopted.	All ministers have been engaged to find ways to reduce red tape. Red Tape Reduction Committee (CFIB is a member) will follow progress to ensure results. Government confirmed in the 2013 budget that red tape reduction will remain a priority.	B-	B
Ontario	Yes. Commitment made by Premier and led by the Minister of Economic Development and Innovation.	Yes. Overall measure reported in 2011. Minister of Economic Development and Innovation working to implement jointly crafted proposal to publicly report cost and time going forward.	Some. For every new regulation imposed on business two must be eliminated. Proposed regulations must also be posted for public comment, while new ones can only be implemented twice a year. Minister of Economic and Innovation is working to implement jointly crafted proposal to regularly review high priority regulatory requirements on small business.	Government has made strong progress on the five action items CFIB outlined for action within 60 days. Priorities going forward will address ongoing measurement of regulatory burden, workers’ compensation and procurement.	B-	B
New Brunswick	Yes. The Premier has established a “Smart Regulation” working group which reports directly to him.	Yes. Reported 52,970 regulatory obligations in the <i>2012 Speech from the Throne</i> .	Government committed to reduce regulation by 20% over its mandate and then zero net growth.	The “Smart Regulation” working group has an impressive list of goals. When government starts meeting some of the goals it has laid out for itself, its grade will improve. To increase transparency, draft regulations are made available for public review and input on the government’s website.	C+	B-

Province	Political Leadership	Measurement	Long-term Commitment	Momentum & Context	2012 Grade	2013 Grade
Saskatchewan	Yes. Red tape reform is a priority for the Premier. It is led by the Minister of the Economy.	No. Government made an election commitment in 2011 to measure and set targets for red tape reduction in 2012. No measures or targets are currently reported publicly.	No. Government committed to legislate public reporting in 2012, but the legislation has been delayed until 2013.	<p>The Regulatory Modernization Council (CFIB is a member) recommended the implementation of the Red Tape Reduction Initiative in April 2011 which includes an initial 2-year review of regulations that impact business by a Sub-Committee of the Legislation & Regulation Review Committee. RMC’s other progress includes one-stop online business services and improved services in specific sectors.</p> <p>New West Partnership has made progress in removing interprovincial trade barriers.</p> <p>In Fall 2012, the provincial government gave notice of motions for first reading of Bill 86—The Regulatory Modernization & Accountability Act.</p> <p>If the government makes good on its measurement promises it will get a better grade next year.</p>	B-	C
Alberta	Some. The Government of Alberta is starting to show renewed leadership. The Premier has appointed the Deputy Premier to serve as Chair of the Regulatory Review Secretariat with a focus on implementing regulatory reform best practices across all government Ministries. The Advanced Education and Enterprise Minister has been directed to develop a small business strategy for cutting red tape.	Some. The government is beginning to evaluate, track and monitor the “quality” of regulations but it does not track and publicly report quantitative measures.	Some. For instance, the Government of Alberta established a Mandatory Expiry Date Policy for regulations (the only jurisdiction in Canada to do so). This policy has been 75% implemented and CFIB would like to see more transparency in how regulations are reviewed.	The launch of an enhanced Public Registry of Proposed Regulations is a positive step to address communication and consultation issues. The report of the Red Tape Reduction Task Force contains strong language but many of the solutions don’t go far enough. New West Partnership has made progress in removing interprovincial trade barriers.	D	D+
Nova Scotia	Some. The Minister of Service NS and Municipal Relations oversees “Better Business”.	No. New “Better Business” plan promises to “measure” but nothing has been publicly reported since 2010.	No. Commitment was made to keep the burden from growing but without public reporting success cannot be measured.	Once a leader in regulatory reform, the government’s long-standing commitment to reducing red tape has largely stalled. Focus has been on easing compliance burdens on specific sectors such as convenience stores. Government has also launched <i>Business.NovaScotia.ca</i> as an entry point to provincial government programs, services and information for businesses.	D	D
Prince Edward Island	Some. Led by Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning.	No.	No.	<p>Energy has been renewed with movement of responsibility from the Department of Finance to Innovation and Advanced Learning.</p> <p>Single projects, such as BizPaL and HST, will mean less red tape but efforts fall short of the cumulative focus which is recommended by CFIB.</p>	F	D-
Manitoba	Some. Led by Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade who recently created an Advisory Council on Regulatory Reform.	No.	No.	While government continues to focus on improving service delivery, other policy changes, such as the recent changes to PST, are creating more red tape for some businesses. Momentum on red tape accountability has been stalled for some time in Manitoba. It is too early to tell whether the new Advisory Council on Regulatory Reform will change that.	F	D-
Northwest Territories	Some. A Cabinet-level Committee led by the Finance Minister.	No. Government claims it only has 25% of the regulations and statutes of Quebec.	No.	<p>Government has established red tape as a priority for action in 2013. If it makes good on this commitment, its grade should increase.</p> <p>BizPaL has recently been adopted.</p>	F	D-
Yukon	Some. Regulatory reviews within individual Ministries.	No.	No.	To date, government has shown little interest in regulatory reform outside of reviews within individual Ministries.	D	D-

Grading Regulatory Accountability in Canada

In CFIB's fourth annual Red Tape Report Card, we assign letter grades by evaluating the progress made to date by governments in Canada to ensure accountability for their regulatory burden. Our own experience shows that successful regulatory reform initiatives and accountability include positive criteria in each of the following categories:

Have they made regulatory accountability a political priority?

Effective and sustained regulatory reform must be driven from the top. In grading jurisdictions on political leadership, CFIB considers whether it is a priority for senior politicians, most notably the Premier or Prime Minister.

Have they measured the regulatory burden?

Any government serious about effective regulatory reform must give the public a way to evaluate its regulatory activity. Internal guidelines and checklists, a feature of many reform initiatives, are not enough. Those proposing regulations should not be left to police themselves. Having set the benchmark—the initial count—are they providing an on-going measurement of the progress they are making to reduce the regulatory burden on individuals and businesses.

Have they made a long-term commitment to regulatory accountability?

Regulatory reform shouldn't be limited to one-off exercises, it should be an integral part of good government over the long-term. Legislating the requirement to report regulatory measures makes it harder for governments to abandon public accountability. Balanced-budget laws are a good template for this sort of "legislated" accountability.

Regulators should also be subject to restraints that recognize that businesses and individuals have limited time and money to cope with regulation. Suggested initiatives include a requirement on the part of government to reduce a regulatory requirement for every new requirement introduced (cap and trade) and introduce criteria to justify the need for new and existing regulations.

Momentum and other context

In this part of the report card, we look at whether governments are gaining or losing momentum. We also look at other initiatives that are important but might fall outside of the scope of measurement.